

Foreign Relations of the United States

JAPAN
1931-1941

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711.94/1539a:Telegram

The Secretary of State to the Ambassador in Japan (Grew)
(Paraphrase)

Washington, June 22, 1940-noon.

215. 1. Unless you perceive any objection, it is my desire that at an early moment you call upon the Foreign Minister and in strictest confidence explore with him in continuation of your conversations of June 10 and June 19, the question of possibly arriving at an understanding between the American Government and the Japanese Government through an exchange of notes along the following lines:

The interest of both countries in keeping to a minimum the adverse effects of the war in Europe is the basis upon which the understanding would be premised. The understanding would refer to this interest. In the proposed notes there would be expressed the agreement between the Government of the United States and the Japanese Government that they have a common desire that the status quo, except as it may be modified by peaceful means, be maintained with regard to the possessions and territories of belligerent European powers in the Pacific area. There might also be in the proposed notes a provision for consultation between the Governments of the two countries should any question arise involving the status quo in respect to the Pacific possessions and territories of belligerent European powers which renders consultation desirable in the opinion of either the Japanese Government or the Government of the United States.

2. In the proposed exchange of notes this Government envisages and would understand the phrase relating to possessions and territories in the Pacific area of belligerent European powers to cover and include their possessions and territories in all parts of the Pacific Ocean.

3. This suggestion relates to a particular and definite problem, that of averting an introduction of new complications and new possibilities of difficulty and friction into the general situation in the Pacific. As you will realize and will keep constantly in mind, it does not involve and should not be inferred to imply any withdrawal from positions heretofore taken regarding any specific problems in the relationships between the two countries. It is intended as a preventive rather than a curative measure. At the sametime, it is our belief, and we hope it will be that of

the Japanese, that the possibility of contributing substantially toward making situations better is within procedures which tend to prevent situations from becoming worse. If adopted, we believe this procedure would tend to turn public thought toward consideration of peaceful and constructive processes. It would tend to dissipate various suspicions which apparently prevail among the public and to curtail various types of inflammatory discussion and agitation. It would take care of the particular present and future problem to which it would expressly relate, and, although it would in no way dispose of the many and various specific questions which have been and are the subject matter of current and past discussion between our two Governments, it might facilitate solution of some of them.

Hull

米國對東南係

七三九四/日本 (一九三二—五四二) ハス更—ハセス
電報

國務長官ヨリ日本駐在米國大使(グルー)宛

(敬 衍)

二一五

一九四〇年/昭和十五年/六月二十二日正午發府

「貴下ニ異議ナキ限り、余ハ貴下ガ近日中日本外務大臣ト面會シ、六月十日及十九日ノ會談ニ引續キ左記ノ如キ趣旨ノ覺書ノ交換ニヨリ、米國政府ト日本政府間ニ諒解成立ニ到達スベク大臣ト共ニ極ク内密ニ盡力セラレンコトヲ希望ス。

歐洲ニオケル戰爭ノ災害ヲ最少限度ニ止メントスル兩國ノ關心ヲ、諒解成立ノ前提タルベキ基礎トス。該諒解ハ右關心ニ付キ言及スルヲ要ス。コノ提案ノ覺書ニハ合衆國政府及日本政府ハ太平洋地域ニオケル歐洲交戰國ノ屬地及領土ニ關シテハ、平和的手段ニヨル變更ニ非ザル限り、現狀維持ト言フ共通ノ希望ヲ有スルトイフ兩國政府ノ合意ヲ表明スルコトヲ要ス。太平洋ニオケル歐洲交戰國ノ屬地及領土ノ現狀維持ニ關聯スル問題生起セル際日本政府又ハ合衆國政府ノ何レカノ意見ニ依リ商議望マル場合ニ於ケル兩國政府間商議ニ關スル一規定ヲ、前記覺書中ニ設クルモ妨ゲナシ。

ニ右覺書ノ交換ニ當ツテハ、當政府ハ歐洲交戰國ノ太平洋地域ニ於ケル屬地及領土ニ關スル措辭ハ、

太平洋全地域ニ於ケル、ソノ屬地及領土ヲ包含スルモノト思惟シ居リ且斯ク了解セントスルモノナリ。

本提案ハ或特定明確ナル問題即チ、太平洋ノ一般情勢ニ於イテ新ナル紛糾ト困難摩擦ノ發生ヲ齎ラス事ヲ避ケルトイフ問題ニ關聯スルナリ。

貴下ガ了解セラレ且又常ニ考ヘラレル如ク今回ノ措置ハ兩國關係ニ於ケル如何ナル特殊問題ニ就イテモ從來我方ノ取り來リシ立場ヨリ讓歩スルヲ意味スルモノニアラズ且又斯クノ如ク推測セラルベキ者ニモ非ズ。右ハ治療的ト言ハンヨリ寧ロ豫防的手段ノ積リナリ。

同時ニ我々ガ確信シ且ツ日本側モ確信セン事ヲ望ムハ情勢好轉ニ本質的ニ寄與スルハ情勢惡化防止手段ニアリテフ事ナリ。

若シ本處置實現ノ曉ハ輿論ヲ轉ジテ平和的且建設的方法ノ考慮ニ向ハシムルモノト信ズ。本措置ハ民衆ノ間ニ明白ニ漲ル幾多ノ疑念ヲ消散シ、種々ナル過激ノ論議ト煽動ヲ減殺スルニ力アラン。本措置ハソノ明白ニ關聯スル特殊ノ現在及將來ノ問題ニ付留意スルモノニシテ而モ右ハ兩國政府間ニ於ケル現在及過去ノ論議事項タル幾多ノ特殊問題ヲ處理スルモノニアラザレドモ、ソノ中ノ或問題ノ解決ニハ或ハ資スルトコロアル可シ。

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1931-1941

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711.94/1626

Memorandum by the Ambassador in Japan (Grew)

(TOKYO) June 24, 1940.

When I called on the Foreign Minister at 11 o'clock this morning at the private house of a common friend, we discussed in strictest confidence the suggestion proposed in the Department's telegram No. 215, June 22, noon, with reference to an exchange of notes regarding upholding the status quo with regard to the Pacific territories and possessions of belligerent European countries.

The Minister gave his close attention to the diverse points in my oral argument and all the questions he put to me were covered in the Department's instructions. When asked whether the Pacific mandated islands were included in our proposal, I answered that if he desired I would submit the point to my Government, but he did not pursue the subject.

The Minister said finally that the suggestion would be given his close study and that he would reply soon. He stated further that, unless a number of the many outstanding differences between the United States and Japan were first solved, he, offhand and in his own opinion, thought that the suggestion might be difficult to accept. When asked to which difficulties he referred in particular, the Minister replied that the absence of a commercial treaty was the outstanding difficulty.

In view of some of his comments I made clear at the conclusion of our talk that our present proposal must not be misunderstood to imply any retreat from positions previously held regarding any particular problems between Japan and the United States, but I added that I found it significant in my own opinion that our exploration today was regarded by my Government as the continuance of the conversations of June 10 and 19, which were entered into with the express intent of discovering means to ameliorate American-Japanese relations.

Mr. Arita said that the Japanese press must have called my attention to the trend of public opinion in Japan, which was strongly for closer relations with Germany and Italy and was continually growing in strength. He claimed that he was personally, as I well knew, in favor of a rapprochement with the United States, but that the situation today opened him to severe criticism, and that the problem was extremely difficult.

J(oseph) C. G (rew)

FILE COPY
RETURN TO ROOM 361

日本駐在米國大使（クルー）宛書

「東京」一九四〇年／西曆十五年／六月二十四日

Doc 2205

今朝十一時共通ノ友人私宅ニ外相ヲ訪問ノ際、歐
洲交戦國ノ太平洋ニオケル領土及ビ島嶼ニ關スル現
狀維持ヲ支持スル事ニ關スル宛書交換ニ就キ六月二
十二日正午付貴省電報第二一五號中ニ提案ノ提議ニ
ツキ返ク内密ニテ配屬シタリ。

外相ハ余ガ隨從セシ時極々ナル自語ニ對シ信心ノ
注意ヲ拂ヒタルガソノ余ニ爲シタル質問ノ全部ハ
貴省訓令中ニ包含サレシ所ナリ。太平洋委任統治群
島モ我方提案中ニ包含サレ居ルヤ否ヤノ質問ニハ余
ハ外相之ヲ裁量スルニ於テハ其ノ隨從政府ニ照會ス
可キ旨答ヘタレドモ本問題ニ付テハ彼ハ固テ適宜ス
ル所ナカリキ。

外相ハ最後ニ本提案ハ精密ナル研究ノ上早急回答
ス可キ旨告ゲタリ。尙彼ハ合衆國ト日本間ノ多數未
解決ノ意見ノ相違ガ先ヅ解決サレザル限り、即座ニ
且又彼ノ其場ノ彼一人ノ意見ニテハ本提案ノ受諾固
難ナル可シト風雅スル旨述べタリ。ソノ等ニ對シテ
ル困難ハ何ナリヤト問ヒタルニ、外相ハ通商條約ノ
存在セヌ事ガ最大難點ナル旨答ヘタリ。

Doc 2205.

2.

外相ノ爲シタル余ル自許ニ任ミ余ハ此ノ會談ノ後
ニ於テ我方今次ノ提案ハ日本ト合衆國間ノ如何ナル
特殊關係ニ就キテ我方ガ從來執リ來リシ立場ヨリ何
等カノ譲歩ヲ爲スモノトイフ誤解ヲ招カザル様念ヲ
持シタリ。

余ハ附ケ加ヘテ我政府ハ今日ノ我等ノ提案ヲ日米兩
條好條ノ手續ヲ遵見セントノ明白ナ意圖ノ許ニナサ
レタル六月十日及ビ十九日ノ會談ノ備忘ト見做シ
ルハ意義深キ點ナリトノ余ノ私見ヲ述ベタリ。

有田氏ハ日本新聞ハ日本ニ於ケル輿論趨勢ガ獨逸
トノ關係緊密化ニ熱意ヲ示シ其ノ身益々大ナラント
スル事ニ余ノ注意ヲ引キシニ相違ナシト語レリ。爰
ハ彼個人トシテハ、余モ良ク知ル如ク、合衆國トノ
親交ヲ望ミ居ルモ今日ノ事態ハ彼ヲ苛烈ナル批評ノ
的タラシメ、同種ハ延メテ日德ナル皆遺憾シタリ。

ジ (ヨセフ) シー・ダ (ルー)